

we are going to have to face it sooner or later if we have to change a criminal code and if this body has to change it the more we know about it the better. Now, we have been working on it for five or six years as I understand it and this is one of the strongest arguments against, or for passage. Well the fact that we have been working on it, and the fact that it has already been under consideration for four or five years and the fact that it is still not ready for passage indicates that more people are going to have to get involved and serious with it. If in fact something needs to be done. So, I would hope that we would continue and put in as much effort as it requires but it isn't a simple matter and there is nothing that is going to make it a simple matter, nothing. All the amendments and all of the pages and all of the discussion and all of the wording is not going to make this a simple matter. Us people who are not trained in the law are going to have as much problem and trouble explaining it after we...understanding it after we spend time as before. At least we have a better understanding if we do put forth the effort.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, with the willingness of the rest of the body, I'm willing to spend my time nights working with these other senators in trying to come up with some things. But, I want to tell you something about this code and why Senator Barnett is the best person to explain it, and why the judiciary committee, this new committee of young people is the best one to handle it and work with us on it. You see the criminal code as I have suggested to you is unlike other laws, it is unlike your complicated and technical insurance bills. It is a code that is supposed to be able to be understood by any man in this state who can read and write or any person who can talk and have something told to him. A criminal code unlike other laws according to the courts and interpretations of our Constitution, criminal laws are the only laws that are strictly construed. In other words exactly what they say is what they are supposed to mean. So, it should be a code clear enough and simple enough for everyone, every layman to understand. Why should the legislature spend an hour a morning or some such amount for the rest of this session learning about this code, studying it and working it? Because for the first time in a hundred years, this legislature should become the most knowledgeable body, the most knowledgeable group in the whole state about exactly what is in the criminal code. The argument that it is complicated, that it is burdensome, that it is going to take a lot of time and that we don't understand it are precisely the arguments why we have got to take at least one session of this legislature to make us the most knowledgeable persons in this state about a criminal code. You see what happens to this particular criminal code isn't that important...whether we pass it in the final form, but it is important that come June 30th or some such time when we march out of here that the members of this group know more about criminal codes in the State of Nebraska and the criminal laws and how they affect the citizens than any other people. As we go through this code, we will give you examples and cite cases where you will find shocking things as to what has gone on and what can possibly go on. You will learn for example that under existing Nebraska law that probably most members of this legislature are felons of one kind or another under the sex laws, under various other laws, and it is time that we face up to these facts and say this is 1977, let's have a 1977 criminal law that we understand, so I would urge you whether you are totally opposed to it, whether